

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please change the heading at page 12, line 1, from "Claims" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS--

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

-- Claim 3 (new): A process for preparing 2,4,5-trimethylphenylacetic acid comprising

- (a) reacting pseudocumene with dichloroacetyl chloride in a Friedel-Crafts reaction to give 2,2-dichloro-1-(2,4,5-trimethylphenyl)ethanone,
- (b) converting the 2,2-dichloro-1-(2,4,5-trimethylphenyl)ethanone to 2,4,5-trimethylmandelic acid using an alkali metal hydroxide, and
- (c) reducing the 2,4,5-trimethylmandelic acid to form 2,4,5-trimethylphenylacetic acid.

Claim 4 (new): 2,2-Dichloro-1-(2,4,5-trimethylphenyl)ethanone. --